

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 7, 2017

The Honorable Bruce Rauner
Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

RE: 41st Street Pedestrian Bridge

Dear Governor Rauner,

We were recently notified by the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) that a number of transportation projects throughout the city are being indefinitely delayed due to the State withholding State only Chicago Commitment (SOCC) funding from CDOT. We write to ask that you release these funds to ensure that CDOT can implement necessary infrastructure projects, improving transportation for the City of Chicago.

These projects include federal transportation projects, and put hard-won federal dollars at risk. SOCC funding is used by CDOT to provide the necessary 20% match for federal transportation funds and advance other projects that benefit the State road system. This policy change puts more than \$300M in capital project investments at risk – including \$105M in SOCC funds that will leverage \$166M in federal funds. A significant portion of these project costs and jobs benefit Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, providing a critical opportunity for many women- and minority-owned firms to create jobs and growth.

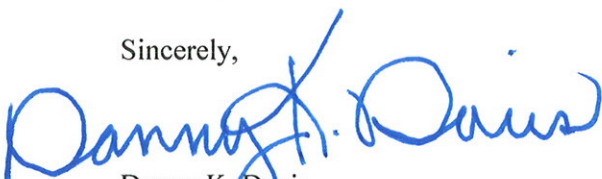
In particular, the \$2 million that is currently being withheld from the 41st Street Pedestrian Bridge project puts \$18 million in federal TIGER grant funding in jeopardy. My colleagues have fought in Congress to ensure there were funds for these kinds of transformative projects across the country. We supported CDOT's application to build this pedestrian bridge, connecting Chicago's Bronzeville community to the lakefront, and creating 140 jobs.


Transportation and infrastructure projects provide mobility, safety and quality of life improvements throughout Chicago and are vital to the overall economic health of the City, the Northeastern Illinois region, and the State of Illinois. Withholding these funds from Chicago, delaying project starts, and putting other funds at risk, is not in the best interests of the residents of and visitors to Chicago and will hurt the economy of the City, the region, and the state.

We ask that you immediately release pending SOCC funding and commit to its continued annual distribution to the City of Chicago.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact our offices should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,


Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress


Mike Quigley
Member of Congress